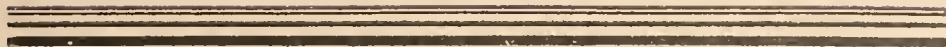



IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1949





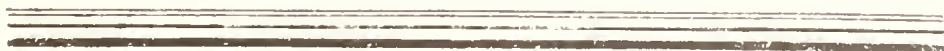
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IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1949



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Statute Acres)	4,717
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, June, 1949)	15,120
Population (Census 1931)	12,901
Number of Inhabited Houses (per Rate Book) ...	4,293
Rateable value	£86,506
Sum represented by a penny rate	£351 12s. 8d.
Total Rates in the £	18.6d.

2. VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Legitimate ...	116	131	247
Illegitimate ...	9	0	9
Stillbirths	3	8	11
Birth Rate ... ..	...	...	16.9
	Males	Females	Total
Deaths	81	71	152
Death-Rate ... ..	...	...	10.1
Deaths from Puerperal causes...	...	...	Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age	...	...	Eight
Deaths from Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	One
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	Twenty

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1949

●

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Edam Urban District Council.*

I have to submit my report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

During the year the district has been comparatively free from infectious diseases. One case of diphtheria has occurred. The epidemic of measles which affected the district during the previous year subsided and only 27 cases of this disease were reported. There was, however, an increased occurrence of scarlet fever of a mild type. In June there was an outbreak of food poisoning amongst the guests at a party due to infection of food by staphylococcal organisms. The illness was acute but of short duration and all the persons affected recovered in a few days.

I wish to express my appreciation of the courtesy and assistance I have received from the members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Council and in particular from Mr. L. Hall and the Staff of the Health Department.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. E. SPENCE,

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
IRLAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1950.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL.

The county district of Irlam in Lancashire is roughly square in formation, with sides over three and a half miles long.

The district boundaries on the North march with those of Tyldesley, Worsley and Leigh, on the South with the Manchester Ship Canal, on the East with Eccles and on the West with the banks of the River Glaze.

A considerable area of the great Chat Moss comes within the district and, being unfit for building upon, is almost all under cultivation.

The residents are thus provided with an area quasi-rural in character, which makes a relieving contrast to the industrial nature of the district on its southern borders.

Irlam provides the usual material amenities for its residents in the form of drainage, gas and water mains, telephone and electric cables. The municipally-owned dwellings provide excellent accommodation for many working-class families, and parks and playing-fields are maintained in convenient situations for public use.

A variety of industries is carried on in the district. The following list is a brief summary. —

Steel and iron works, soap works, margarine and lard manufacturing, coal tips, tar works, wallpaper works, basket works, general engineering and market gardening.

No conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health were noted during the year.

POPULATION.

The resident population of Irlam estimated by the Registrar General in June, 1949, was 15,120, an increase of 2219 over the 1931 Census figures.

The excess of births over deaths during the year was 104.

In addition to the resident population large numbers from outside journey daily to and from the various works in the district.

BIRTHS.

Boys 125 . Girls 131 . Total 256.

The total number of births belonging to the district after the necessary adjustments for inward and outward transfers was 256.

This gave a birth rate of 16.9 per 1,000 of the population, as against 17.3 for the previous year.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the population for the whole of England and Wales for 1949 was 16.7.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Of the 8 infant deaths, 5 occurred during the first month of life due mainly to causes operative before birth, 4 children died within 24 hours of birth and 1 between the first and seventh day. 4 of these deaths were attributed to prematurity and associated conditions and 1 to congenital defects.

The reduction in infant mortality which has been achieved during the past half century has been mainly among children over one month old. Among these children the mortality is now about 30 per cent of what it was at the beginning of the century whilst the mortality under one month of age is still about 70 per cent of the mortality in 1900. Improvement in housing conditions, sanitation and better mothercraft have all contributed to this reduction of mortality of infants and of these there is no doubt that a better standard of mothercraft and a better understanding of the needs and ailments of infants has made the greatest contribution. The steady and continuous educational influence of the child welfare centres and the teaching of the health visitors in the homes have been effective in raising the standard of infant care.

The following table gives the infant mortality rate per 1000 live births for this district during the past five years

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
39	47	48	42	31

DEATHS.

Males 81 ; Females 71 . Total 152.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 112 but deducting 6 deaths of persons not usually resident in this district and adding 46 deaths of residents which occurred in other districts the corrected number was 152.

This gave a death-rate of 10.1 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 8.9 in 1948.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000 of the total population.

The principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulatory system which were responsible for 37.5 per cent of the total deaths, and cancer which accounted for 13.2 per cent of the deaths. Respiratory diseases other than tuberculosis were responsible for 15.1 per cent of the deaths. It is satisfactory to be able to report that there were no deaths from the acute infectious diseases and,

having regard to the long and congested main road traversing the district carrying an almost continuous stream of heavy traffic, only one death due to road traffic accidents occurring within the district.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND INQUESTS.

During the year there were fifteen deaths (9 male, 6 female) registered in which the causes of death were not certified by medical practitioners.

There were eight inquests held and the coroner's verdicts were as follows :

Accidental	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Death by Misadventure	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No maternal deaths were notified in this area during 1949.

CANCER (MALIGNANT DISEASE).

There were 20 deaths from this cause, 8 males and 12 females, giving a mortality rate of 1.32 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 29 deaths in 1948, when the rate was 1.93 per 1,000.

CLASSIFIED DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Localisation	1947	1948	1949
Tongue and Mouth	—	—	2
Pharynx	—	—	—
Oesophagus	—	3	1
Stomach	7	5	9
Respiratory Organs	4	8	—
Pancreas	1	2	—
Liver	1	—	—
Intestinal Tract	3	7	6
Generative Organs	1	—	—
Breast	2	2	1
Other or Unspecified Organs	4	2	1
Total	23	29	20
Deaths from all causes ...	148	135	152

ORGANIC HEART DISEASE.

Forty-eight deaths giving a death rate of 3.17 per 1,000 of the population.

RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

Twenty three (bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases) giving a death rate of 1.52 per 1,000.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 157 notifications of infectious disease were received of which 52 related to scarlet fever. The illness was of a mild type and there is no doubt that in addition to the cases notified there were other cases of a mild type which were not detected and were responsible for spreading infection. 32 of the cases occurred in Irkam and 20 in Cadishead. 23 of the patients were removed to hospital mainly because it was not possible to arrange for adequate isolation at home. Hospital isolation of mild cases of scarlet fever is not necessary if the child can be given a separate room at home. Even under the best hospital conditions there is a risk of cross infection with complications ensuing a risk which is not encountered when the patient is nursed at home. The majority of the children suffering from scarlet fever, namely 34, were aged 5-10 years, 13 were under 5 years and 5 were aged 10-15 years. There were no deaths from the disease.

27 cases of measles were notified during the year compared with 205 in the previous year when there was an epidemic of the disease in the Urban District. The cases were all nursed at home and no deaths from the disease occurred.

There were 14 cases of whooping cough notified during the year but it is highly probable that there were other cases which were not notified. The diagnosis of this disease, unless the characteristic cough is present, is by no means easy, and mild cases which are capable of spreading infection are often not recognised.

In June, 27 cases of food poisoning occurred among guests at a party. The outbreak was promptly notified and the staff of the health department were able to obtain samples of unconsumed food and specimens from the victims which were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination on the following morning. The same type of organism was found in the remains of two tongues and in the specimens obtained from the persons who were ill.

Organisms of the staphylococcal group are wide spread. When food has been infected by them they multiply and produce a poison or toxin which is capable of causing irritation of the stomach and intestines resulting in vomiting, diarrhoea, and abdominal pain two to

four hours after the food has been consumed. In robust, healthy persons the type of poisoning, although extremely unpleasant and uncomfortable is not serious but in feeble persons, the aged or in young persons it may cause serious illness or even death.

Food may be infected in many ways but a frequent source of infection is an unhealed cut or abrasion on the hands of the person preparing the food, or infection from the nose if, after using a handkerchief, the hands are not washed before resuming the preparation of the food. If the food after preparation is kept in a warm place for 12 hours or more, the organisms which have contaminated the food multiply rapidly and produce their poison. Scrupulous cleanliness in the handling of food is therefore essential and cooked foods should always be kept protected from flies, and in a cool place or refrigerator until consumed.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The estimated number of children under the age of 15 years in the Urban District is 3,389, of whom 69.87 per cent have been immunised. The freedom of the district from diphtheria is due to the large proportion of children immunised.

The immunity against diphtheria conferred by this treatment gradually fades and it is desirable that reinforcing doses of prophylactic should be given to older children. Children should be immunised before their first birthday and they should receive a reinforcing dose on admission to school and again about the age of 8 years.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination is no longer compulsory ; it is, however, the only known protection against smallpox. Although smallpox only occasionally occurs in this country due to the arrival of infected persons from abroad, by energetic action on the part of health authorities outbreaks are rapidly brought under control, but there is always a risk of infection from a mild unrecognised case. Smallpox is one of the most fatal diseases and in a recent outbreak approximately thirty per cent of the unvaccinated persons who contracted the disease died. Vaccination of infants is easily carried out and causes very little disturbance in the children. The protection afforded by infant vaccination lasts for several years, it then gradually fades and although not an absolute protection it continues to modify the infection for a long period. The number of infants being vaccinated at the present time is very small and parents are strongly urged to have them protected against this extremely dangerous disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease are given in the following table :—

Age Period	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
35-45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	6	2	—	2	1	—	—
	10		2		3		—	

Seventeen cases received sanatorium treatment during the year.

The notification of tuberculosis was satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to take any action regarding cases of neglect or refusal to notify. All deaths from tuberculosis were previously notified.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The following have been adopted by the Council :—

ACT	Date of Adoption
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (part 3)	7th Oct., 1896
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890...	20th Sept., 1896
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 4, 6 and Section 95)	24th Oct., 1910
Private Street Works Act, 1892	2nd Mar., 1925
Public Health Act, 1925, (sections 21, 22)	26th June, 1926

BYE-LAWS

With respect to Nuisances	6th Sept., 1922
With respect to New Buildings, etc.	20th Sept., 1926
With respect to Parks & Pleasure Grounds	5th April, 1927
Respecting the Trade of Fish Frier, made under the Irish (Offensive Trade) Confirmation Order, 1927	5th Sept., 1927
With respect to Smoke Abatement	1st Nov., 1949

SCHOOLS.

All schools in the district are visited at regular intervals by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer, and, in addition, your local officials make periodical inspections with regard to sanitary arrangements generally.

TABLE I
IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death for the Year 1949. Classified under the Headings of the Abridged List of Causes.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	1	2	3
Acute Polymyelitis	—	—	—
Cancer	8	12	20
Diabetes	1	—	1
Inter. cran. vas. lesions	4	8	12
Heart disease	27	21	48
Other dis. circul. system	4	5	9
Bronchitis	9	9	14
Pneumonia	5	1	6
Other respiratory diseases	3	—	3
Ulcer stomach or duod.	1	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	1	1
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases	1	—	1
Nephritis	3	6	10
Prem. birth	2	2	4
Con. mal. birth Inj.	—	1	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic acc.	1	—	1
Other violence	1	1	2
All other causes	3	1	4
Totals	81	71	152

TABLE II
IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS of WHOLE DISTRICT for 1949 and Previous Years

Year	Population of Middle Each Year	Births				Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Net Deaths belonging to the District			
		M.	F.	Total	Rate	No.	Rate	Of Non- Residents Registered in the District	Of Residents Registered outside the District	Under 1 yr. of Age		At all Ages	
										Number	Rate per 1000 Births	Number	Rate
1945	13,890	125	129	254	18.2	99	7.1	3	35	10	39	131	9.4
1946	14,630	141	113	254	17.3	104	7.1	5	45	12	47	144	9.8
1947	14,750	145	143	288	19.5	101	6.8	4	51	14	48	148	10.0
1948	15,020	130	130	260	17.3	98	6.5	6	43	11	42	135	8.9
1949	15,120	125	131	256	16.9	112	7.4	6	46	8	31	152	10.1

Area of District ... 4,717 statute acres.

Population (census 1931) ... 12901

TABLE III

IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT

Cases of INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the Year 1949, other than Tuberculosis

Disease	Total No. Cases	At Ages—Years											Ward Distribution				Cases Removed to Hosp.	Total Deaths	
		Un'er 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Irlam	Irlam Cen.	Cadis. Cen.			Cadis.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	16	16	8	12	23	—
Scarlet Fever	52	—	1	3	3	6	34	5	—	—	—	—	3	11	4	8	8	1	—
Acute Pneumonia	31	—	—	—	3	—	5	—	1	4	1	14	—	9	7	6	5	—	—
Measles	27	3	2	7	1	3	9	—	1	1	—	—	—	4	8	1	1	—	—
Whooping cough	11	—	1	3	4	4	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	16	5	1	3	1	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	4	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	157	3	4	13	11	13	51	5	9	12	7	22	7	59	40	27	31	29	—

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1949

●

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Since the last annual report a great deal of time and thought has been given to bringing about desirable improvements in the environmental health services.

There has been the inevitable post war problem of labour and material shortages, together with ever soaring costs, but the least observant and impressionable must be agreeably surprised with the results of our efforts.

Of course, more has yet to be done— but I am sure that when this report is compared with reports of subsequent years, the wisdom of the Committee's decision to appoint an additional sanitary inspector will be fully realised.

Meanwhile, a concentrated effort is being directed on bringing the food premises in the district up to a reasonable standard. The response from the trade in this connection has been most encouraging, in almost every case I have met with courtesy and a genuine willingness to help.

The year under review has been a notable one for the steps taken towards a cleaner and purer atmosphere. During the year one deposit gauge and four sulphur recorders were set up within the district, being part of a scheme embracing Sale, Stretford, Urmston, Irlam and other adjoining districts. It is too early to give any comparative figures but there is not the slightest doubt that the scheme will provide information which will be of great assistance in the fight for a cleaner atmosphere. Another notable item in this connection is the coming into operation of the Council's Byelaws governing the emission of black smoke.

The Council is represented on the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee by the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Sanitary Inspector.

The early part of the year will long be remembered for the floods which completely blocked Liverpool Road and flooded several dwelling houses. It is good to note that although much dirt and slime were left behind there was no rise in the incidence of disease.

Work under the Housing Act, 1936 has been almost at a standstill due mainly to the inability to re-house displaced persons. Only in extreme cases has action been taken.

The general work in connection with repairs to dwelling houses has shown a welcome improvement and only in the case of three houses, owned by the same person, has it been necessary to resort to Court proceedings.

The Public Cleansing Service has, in spite of various setbacks, continued to work smoothly and efficiently, but it has not been possible to maintain a weekly collection of household refuse. Again the Committee's enterprise in recommending to the Council the purchase of an additional refuse collection vehicle will, I have no doubt, remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs to the mutual benefit of everybody in the district.

The returns for the year from the collection of salvaged materials have proved to be the highest on record for the district.

In conclusion I have again to express my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, to Dr. Spence, to all the members of the staff and to employees for their help and support throughout the year.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE HALL,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

WATER SUPPLY

The greater part of the Urban District is served by the mains of the Manchester Corporation; only nine properties in the Glazebury Moss area being supplied by the Warrington Corporation. Supplies were constant; the quality excellent and the quantity sufficient. No houses are supplied by stand pipes or wells.

WATER COURSES

The watercourses in the district have been kept under observation throughout the year.

The condition of the natural water courses particularly in the Irlam area leaves much to be desired. The importance of these water courses seems to have been forgotten in the humdrum of the post war years. It is a fact that a sluggish ill-cared for water course tends to become a dump for all kinds of rubbish. Several complaints were received during the year of nuisances from this source. On one occasion a dairyman had to be requested to remove eighteen full crates of milk bottles out of a water course at Higher Irlam.

The water course in most need of attention is Platts Brook, together with its tributaries. The unsatisfactory conditions prevailing along the course of this brook are greatly aggravated during heavy rains by reason of its being a storm-water overflow.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Council's housing estates and a large part of the Cadishead area are drained on the separate system the remainder of the district on the combined.

Apart from a few isolated houses on the moss area, all properties are connected to the sewers.

The sewage is received and dealt with at the Council's sewage works situated at Lords Street, Cadishead, where it is treated by the Activated Sludge method prior to discharge into the River Glaze.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The following approximate particulars are given of conveniences in the district at the end of 1949 :—

No. of fresh-water closets	...	...	...	...	5,002
No. of waste-water closets	...	...	...	...	10
No. of pail-closets	...	...	...	...	56
No. of privy-middens	...	...	...	...	2

All the pail-closets and privies with the exception of five pail closets attached to the temporary structures in Allotment Road are situated on the moss area and are attended to by the occupiers.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The emphasis during the year has been placed on the more scientific and technical side of the problem of atmospheric pollution with exceedingly good results. The "policing" of the chimney tops has given place to informal visits and discussions with the management and engineers concerned. The success of these discussions may be assessed by the very marked decrease in the number of complaints received in the office during the year.

In this connection I would like to pay tribute to the help and assistance given by H.M. Inspector for the Alkali etc. Works Regulation Act, 1906.

During the year, four sulphur recorders and one deposit gauge were installed at the following points :

Sewage Works, Cadishead ...	One deposit gauge and one sulphur recorder.
Woodside Farm, Cadishead	One sulphur recorder.
Princess Park, Irlam ...	One sulphur recorder.
Railway View Farm, Irlam	One sulphur recorder.

The average monthly deposit estimated from the deposit gauge at the sewage works in tons per square mile was :

Insoluble deposit	...	5.81
Soluble deposit	...	6.73
Total solid	...	12.54

Although it is too early in the scheme to make comparisons within the district it is interesting to note that the atmosphere of Irlam is not so heavily polluted as that of our neighbours on the other side of the Manchester Ship Canal.

Another notable item in this field of work was the coming into operation on 1st November, 1949, of the byelaw governing the emission of black smoke. The time allowed for the emission of black smoke in any period of 30 minutes is 2 minutes. It has been said that the limit of 2 minutes is rather stringent, but I would point out that the emission of black smoke is a sign of inefficiency and as such must be stopped. When one realises the vast amount of money wasted, not only in heat loss when burning the fuel, but also the cost of combatting the effects of smoke and grit, I would say to the critics of the byelaw that it should be made an offence to issue smoke in any quantity whether black or otherwise.

COMPLAINTS

176 complaints were received and investigated during the year. Summary of complaints :

Housing defects	...	93
Obstructed drains	...	18
Rats and mice	...	21
Vermin	...	10
Animals so kept	...	6
Dirty premises	...	9
Overcrowding	...	5
Accumulations	...	5
Atmospheric pollution	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	4

The total number of visits made in connection with the above (including re-visits) was 617.

NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE.

113 preliminary and 7 statutory notices were served during the year. The following statement gives details of the work carried out under the supervision of the Department:—

HOUSING

Defective house walls repaired	...	...	...	18
Gutters and downspouts repaired	...	...	...	12
Windows and sash cords repaired	...	...	...	29
Ceilings and walls re-plastered	...	...	...	32
Leaking roofs repaired	...	...	...	16
New sinks provided	...	...	...	2
Defective floors reconstructed	...	...	...	13
Dangerous firegrates rebuilt	...	...	...	7
Yard surfaces reconstructed	...	...	...	7
Yard walls repaired	...	...	...	2
Hot water circulatory systems provided or repaired	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	8

DRAINAGE

Choked drains cleansed	...	...	...	18
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	4
Sink waste-pipes repaired...	...	...	...	6

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

New watercloset basins fixed	...	...	...	4
Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	6

MISCELLANEOUS

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	5
Dirty houses cleansed	...	...	...	8
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	6

Although there has been a marked improvement in the position of housing repairs over the past year the standard is much below that of pre-war level. This in my opinion is not due in the main to shortages of labour and materials, but to the economic position. Owners who prided themselves on a high standard of maintenance in the past have had to lower their standard considerably, and others of a less conscientious nature are refusing to do any work until a notice has been served by the department.

The high and ever-increasing cost of repairs is hitting aged owners particularly, who by thrift in their younger days managed to buy one or two cottages with a view to supplementing their old age pension.

The outcome of this position is that the work of the department is increasing, particularly in relation to the supervision of works in progress.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Public Health Act, 1936 Section 93.

Legal proceedings were instituted against an agent being the person collecting the rack rent for non-compliance with three statutory notices. The agent pleaded that he had a written instruction from the actual owner not to do any repairs to the property and, therefore, was only acting on the instructions of his client. The magistrates dismissed the case with costs against the Council.

The notices were re-served on the actual owner and proceedings again instituted. On this occasion the owner was given twenty eight days to carry out the work required, the Council being awarded costs.

OVERCROWDING

During the year five new cases of statutory overcrowding were reported, in addition to the four outstanding at the beginning of the year. Two cases were relieved, leaving a total of seven still to be dealt with.

This figure of seven in no way gives a true picture of the housing situation and the conditions under which families are having to live. In many houses where there is no statutory overcrowding, sleeping accommodation is grossly inadequate, this is most apparent where married sons or daughters are having to live with their parents due to the housing shortage.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	12
Animals so kept	...	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	12
Council House applications	...	...	...	...	28
Dairies	...	...	...	...	59
Dwelling houses re complaints	...	...	...	...	493
Dwelling houses re overcrowding	...	...	...	...	5
Dwelling houses re infectious disease	...	...	...	...	53
Dwelling houses dirty or verminous	...	...	...	...	14
Dwelling houses re Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	34
Factories	...	...	...	...	23

Farms	76
Food premises	122
Inspection of pigs, etc.	105
Canteens	14
Gypsies	18
Ice cream premises	23
Interviews with Owners, Contractors, etc.	33
Petroleum	4
Public cleansing - disposal plant	124
Public cleansing - other visits	35
Rats and mice	60
Schools	10
Shops	284
Smoke abatement	34
Timber licences	30
Miscellaneous	39
TOTAL	1752

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The number of factories on the register at the end of the year was :

Mechanical factories	39
Non-mechanical factories	7
Building works, etc.	5

As in all cases where staff is inadequate some things have to suffer neglect, so it has been with the factories ; during the year the only factories which it was found possible to inspect regularly were those dealing with foodstuffs. Whilst it has not been possible to carry out full inspections, the canteens have been visited at regular intervals.

It is anticipated that with the appointment of an additional inspector this section of our work will be brought up to date.

SHOPS ACTS

During the year all shops in the district have been visited and a new register compiled.

The following is a brief summary of the shops in the district :
 Number of shops :

Cadishead	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Irlam	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
						TOTAL	252

Classification according to type of business (in the case of a mixed business the shop is recorded under the main one) :

Fried Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	14
Grocery	...	...	...	...	...	44
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	15
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	16
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	18
Fish, Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	1
Off Licence	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Bars	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	7
Hairdressers - Ladies	...	...	...	...	...	8
Gents	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drapery	...	...	...	...	...	32
Furnishings	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hardware	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dry Cleaners	...	...	...	...	...	4
Boots and Shoes	...	...	...	...	...	7
Boot and Shoe Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	7
Electrical Equipment	...	...	...	...	...	4
Music, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wallpaper, Paints	...	...	...	...	...	3
Jeweller...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sports Outfitters	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cycles, Cycle Requisites	...	...	...	...	...	3
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Handicrafts	...	...	...	...	...	1
Photographs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Animal Feeding Stuffs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sweets, Tobacco	...	...	...	...	...	12
Newsagents, Stationers	...	...	...	...	...	13
Toys, Fancy Goods	...	...	...	...	...	2
Post Office and Stationers	...	...	...	...	...	3

252

FOOD INSPECTION

There are no registered or licensed slaughter houses in use in the district. Butchers obtain their supplies from Manchester.

The meat exposed for sale was found to be of reasonably good quality.

A total of 63 lb. meat was surrendered after inspection, and condemned. In no case was it necessary to seize any diseased or unsound meat.

One hundred and five cottagers' pigs slaughtered under licences issued by the Ministry of Food were inspected. The remarkable feature being the very low incidence of disease, only two pigs showing evidence of tuberculosis. In one case it was necessary to condemn the whole carcase and offal and in the other the head.

The conditions under which some of these animals are slaughtered and dressed can only be described as appalling.

The following table shows the amount of foodstuffs condemned as being unfit for human consumption :

	tins	lb. bottles
Meat		388
Corned beef		57
Bacon and ham		77
Evaporated Milk	60	
Jam	58	
Tinned meats	11	
Tinned fish	13	
Semolina		34
Tinned vegetables	11	
Dehydrated vegetables		11
Mustard		12
Baking powder		23
Tinned Fruit	4	
Lemon flavouring		12
Tomato soup	4	
Salad cream		915
Margarine	2	

FOOD PREMISES

A detailed survey of all food premises in the district was started, and at the end of the year an inspection of all in the Cadishead area had been completed. In each case a copy of sections 13 and 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was left with the occupier.

Much time was spent in discussing and explaining to both

employer and employee, the dangers arising from the careless handling of food in the course of preparation and during storage. Great emphasis was placed on the need of a high standard of personal hygiene for persons engaged in the trade.

The immediate response in the majority of cases was most encouraging, there was, however, the inevitable few, although far below standard, particularly regarding personal cleanliness, considered themselves to be a model of perfection. Such people were found to be most difficult and will require much supervision if the required standard is to be maintained.

In connection with this survey and the inspection of food premises generally 122 visits were made and the following informal notices sent :

Cleanliness—Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Store rooms	...	...	...	...	9
Preparation rooms	...	...	...	...	4
Provision of hot water	...	...	...	...	9
Provision of proper accommodation for the preparation of food	...	...	...	...	5
Alterations to sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	5
Provision of soap and towels...	...	...	...	...	7
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	1
Tiling, etc.	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage	...	...	...	...	2
Provision of dustbins	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following details of samples taken under the provision of Section 68 of the above Act :

A total of 80 samples was obtained, 58 were of milk, and the 22 others comprised :

2 Mustard compound.	1 Parrish's chemical food.
2 Whisky	5 Bread.
1 Flour.	2 Barley.
2 Self-raising flour.	2 Ice cream.
1 Mixed spice.	1 Ground nutmeg.
1 Dried eggs.	1 Split peas.
1 Dried peas.	

All the above sample were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of one self-raising flour, found upon analysis to be deficient of 0.22 per cent of available carbon dioxide. A further sample was taken from the same stock.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

The year 1949 will long be remembered by all persons engaged in the milk industry. The spate of new legislation which came into operation on 1st October altered practically the whole of the administrative machinery.

Whether or not the transfer of the milk production from local to National control will produce any improvement apart from those due to the improved legislation remains to be seen.

Apart from the administration side which still has to be proved, there is no doubt that the new legislation is a step in the right direction and a great improvement on the old.

The supervision of the milk supply continued throughout the year. Farms and Dairies were visited regularly, and samples taken at frequent intervals.

The following table gives details of samples of milk sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester :

		No. Samples	No. Satisfactory
Biological (Tuberculosis)	... ..	27	26
Bacterial Count and B. Coli	... ..	24	10
Methylene Blue	... ..	53	34
Phosphatase Test	... ..	28	28
TOTALS	... ..	132	98

In all cases where unsatisfactory samples were reported, appropriate action was taken, as a result of which one cow which was giving milk containing Tuberculosis Bacilli was slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The following licences were issued during the year :

Tuberculin Tested—	Dealers	...	...	3
	Supplementary	...	...	3
Pasteurised—	To pasteurise	...	...	1
	Dealers	...	...	2
	Supplementary	...	...	3
Sterilised—	Dealers	...	...	11

ICE CREAM

All premises used for the manufacture or sale of ice cream were kept under strict observation during the year. By and large the conditions set out in the "Codes of Practice" were satisfactorily complied with.

At the commencement of the year there were three manufacturers on the register all of whom failed to comply with the Heat

Treatment Regulation. The three were warned during the above season, but only one heeded the warning with the result that the other two were prohibited from manufacturing ice cream on their premises. Work on these two has since been put in hand, and it is expected that the regulations and codes of practice will be fully complied with in the future.

The number of premises on the register is:

Manufacturers	3
Retailers	24

Four samples of ice cream were taken with the following result:

No. of of samples	Methylene Blue			
	Provisional grade			
	1	2	3	4
4	1	1	1	2

The samples were taken towards the latter end of the season and in view of the unsatisfactory results it is intended to carry-out a more intensive sampling campaign during the forthcoming season.

RODENT CONTROL

Work in this connection continued steadily throughout the year. The major part of the rodent operative's time was taken up on contract maintenance treatments. The success of regular treatments has again been proved by the marked decrease in major infestations.

All premises were treated in accordance with the Ministry's methods.

Two maintenance treatments of the district sewers were carried out during the year and only in isolated cases were takes recorded.

Generally speaking, the conditions prevailing throughout the district may be regarded as being satisfactory.

MORTUARY

The mortuary has been in use on fifteen occasions during the year. The details are as follows:

Cause of death	Number
Natural causes	7
Accidental	4
Misadventure	2
Suicide	1
Murder	1

The tilting of the walls has had to be postponed for the time being due to the heavy cost. It was possible, however, to carry out some improvements. A new water heater was fixed, the internal fittings overhauled and the mortuary redecorated internally.

PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1928-1933.

25 licences to store petroleum spirit were issued during the year. All premises were properly maintained.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTIONS

Fifty-three visits were made to households in connection with cases of infectious disease.

The following are details of disinfections carried out by or on behalf of the department :

Number of rooms fumigated	...	...	...	62
Lots of bedding (removed to Ladywell Isolation Hospital) for disinfection	...	...	...	25
Number of library books disinfected	...	...	...	29

The rooms are fumigated with Formaldehyde after the patient has been removed to hospital, or if nursed at home, when the patient is certified free from infection.

The library books are also fumigated with Formaldehyde prior to returning to general use.

When cases of infectious disease occur supplies of disinfectant are issued free if applied for by the householder.

DISINFESTATION

One case of infestation by bed bugs was reported during the year, this being in a Council house and was due to the introduction of infested furniture.

Disinfestations dealt with :

Bed bugs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Crickets	...	...	...	...	...	15
Wood worms	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	...	21

The infestations were successfully dealt with using either Zaldecide or Gammexane.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

On the 1st of January, 1949, the Public Health Department took over the disposal of refuse from the Surveyor's Department, and so, after a lapse of twenty years the cleansing service is again being worked as one unit. The taking over of the refuse disposal at this stage has caused much concern and extra work in the department. The present position in relation to this service is most unsatisfactory,

and may be said to be more serious than at any time in the history of the district. The existing plant for incineration is only capable of dealing with approximately 45 per cent of the total refuse and is in such a bad condition that only with the maximum amount of care and a gradual building up of the maintenance repairs, has it been possible to keep it running. Linked up with this, the available tipping space on the sewage works site is working out rapidly.

Various sites were visited with a view to changing over to 100 per cent controlled tipping : each site presented many difficulties and high costs in proportion to the estimated life of the tip.

There is no doubt that the problem of how to dispose of the refuse will be a major issue for some future Public Health Committee to decide within the next ten years.

Taken by and large the year has been most encouraging, and in view of the many difficulties, the workmen are to be complimented on their efforts in maintaining an efficient service.

Great efforts were made to restore the service to a pre war standard of a weekly collection, and it is with regret that, due to the reduction in working hours and the introduction of the two weeks holiday, it has not been possible to report any improvement on the 8 or 9 days collection.

It will be noted that a weekly collection means that the whole of the district has to be covered in five working days or in every cycle of forty-four working hours.

The two S.D. Freighters now in use are working to their full capacity and little or no benefit would be derived by merely employing more labour.

The Committee are to be complimented on their wisdom in putting the health of the community before other things and recommending to the Council the purchase of a new additional refuse collection vehicle, so that a weekly collection can be put into operation.

During the year the workmen have attended informal meetings at the office when difficulties have been discussed and minor grievances settled. It is pleasing to record that on no occasion was the department understaffed due to workmen leaving, and the rate of absence due to illness or other causes was the lowest for many years.

CLEANSING COSTS AND STATISTICS

Total weight of household refuse collected	... ..	4,894 tons.
Method of disposal :		
(a) Incineration	... ..	1,653 tons = 33.8 per cent.
(b) Controlled tipping	... ..	3,241 tons = 66.2 per cent.
Population	... ..	15,120.
Weight per 1,000 population	... ..	325.8 tons.
Number of houses and premises...		4,290.
Approximate number of bins emptied each cycle	... ..	4,441.
Average length of haul	... ..	1½—2 miles.
Rateable value	... ..	£86,506.
Product of penny rate	... ..	£351 12s. 8d.
Net expenditure :		
(a) Collection	... ..	£3,540 6s. 4d.
(b) Disposal	... ..	£1,639 16s. 11d.
		} £5180 3 3
Net cost per ton :		
(a) Collection	... ..	14s. 5.62d.
(b) Disposal	... ..	6s. 8.42d.
		} £1 1 2.04
Net cost per 1,000 population :		
(a) Collection	... ..	£234 2s. 11d.
(b) Disposal	... ..	£108 9s. 1d.
		} £342 12 0
Net expenditure expressed as rate poundage :		
(a) Collection	... ..	10.07d.
(b) Disposal	... ..	4.67d.
		} 1s. 2.74d.

NOTE. The above figures do not include income from the sale of salvaged materials.

SALVAGE

In this connection the year under review was the most successful since the inception of the scheme, the tonnage and income being the highest recorded. This is all the more remarkable when one realises that during the year the paper mills were unable to take more than 25 per cent of the paper collected for a period of three months and that the price for paper dropped from £6 7s. 6d. to £5 0s. 0d. per ton on 1st October, 1949. Bottles, jars, etc., were also unsaleable after the first quarter of the year and many thousands of bottles and jars together with tons of glass cullet had to be disposed of by burying.

The details of material collected and sold during the year are :

				T.	C.	Q.		£	s.	d.
Paper	...	...	...	133	6	1	...	804	13	4
Rags	...	...	...	10	17	2	...	133	17	0
Bones	...	...	...	2	11	3	...	14	18	2
Metals	...	...	...	2	3	0	...	3	15	3
Glass (bottles, jars, etc.)	...	...	...	9	10	3	...	9	6	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	32	11	3	...	12	17	6
TOTALS	...	...	...	191	1	0	...	979	7	10
Increased collection allowance							...	57	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	...	...	...				...	£1036	7	10

Summary of the district salvage efforts

Year	Weight tons cwt. qr.			Increased Collection Allowance £	Value £
1942	168	11	3	-	659
1943	174	10	0	-	787
1944	99	10	1	-	612
1945	83	10	0	-	468
1946	102	19	1	11	409
1947	129	15	1	15	463
1948	129	6	0	27	633
1949	191	1	0	57	979
	1079	3	2	110	5010
					£5,120

Total weight of materials recovered :

							tons
Paper	...	...	...	...	...	...	681
Tins	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
Glass	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Textiles	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Scrap metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Bones	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
							1079

